

# USA 1934-35 3c Mothers of America stamp – its place in postal services, rates and usages

## Introduction

### Historical background

Anna Jarvis, one time President of the American Mothers Clubs introduced Mother's Day in 1908. Twenty five years later Margaret McCluer, National President of the American War Mothers, suggested marking Mother's Day with a stamp.

### The stamp

Postmaster General James Farley and President Roosevelt agreed the proposal. Roosevelt suggested basing the stamp on a painting by James Abbot McNeil Whistler entitled 'Arrangement in Grey and Black: The Artist's Mother'. A stamp entitled 'Mothers of America' was duly issued on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1934. It was printed on rotary press (perforation 11x10 1/2), flat bed (perforation 11) and imperforate.

### Aims and scope of the exhibit

The exhibit shows how the 3c Mothers of America stamp first came into use and helped to support postal rates, services and domestic and overseas usages. The exhibit is over two frames embracing the period 1934 to 1936; with significant items surrounded by a red border.

### Structure of the exhibit

#### Significant first day usages

##### Domestic mail

- first class (including problem mail)
- first class (territorial origin)
- third class
- airmail
- Supplementary services (registered and special delivery)

##### International mail

- Pan American Treaty rate
- postcards
- printed matter
- UPU surface
- airmail
- registered
- special delivery



1934 registered cover from Akron, Ohio - Batavia, New York. The **only known** commercial cover bearing all three printings of the 3c Mothers of America stamps. Rotary press printing (bottom left) and Flat bed printing (bottom right).